

to the malevolent; O most youthful,
guard us with
thy unharmed, delivering, auspicious
protections.

9. AGNI, protect us by one (nV?7z), or
protect us
by a second; lord of strength, protect us
by three
songs: protect us, giver of dwellings, by
four.¹

10. Protect us from every impious²
RdJcshasa,
shield us in battles j we approach thee,
our nearest
neighbour, our kinsman, for sacrifice and for
increase.³

11. Purifying AGNI, bestow upon us food-
augment-
ing excellent wealth; and (bring) us, O
meter-out of
good, by auspicious guidance, (a treasure)
desired by
many and bringing its own fame,⁴

12. By which we may escape and destroy
in battles
our impetuous weapon-aiming enemies; O
thou who
"by wisdom establishest our rites, bless us
with food,
prosper our wealth-obtaining offerings.

13. AGKNTI tosses his horns, sharpening
them as a
bull;⁵ his sharp jaws are not to be
resisted;⁶ he is
mighty-toothed, this son of strength.

14. Since thou spreadest out on all
sides, thy
teeth, bull AGNI, are not to be resisted;
O offerer,

¹ This v. occurs in *Sdma Veda*, I. 1. 1. 4. 2; II. 7. 2. 4. 1; and in *Yajur Vedttj* xxvii. 43. In the latter, Mahidhara explains the four as the Rich, Tajus, Saman, and TTigada.

² Literally, "not giving (sacrificial) gifts."

⁸ Sama Yeda, II. 7- 2. 4. 2.

⁴ *Hid.* I. 1. 1. 4. 9.

⁵ Of. Yirgil, *Georg.* iii. 232.

⁶ Sayana in his Cordon, curiously takes *n&* twice,
once as = w&
(*hanava wa*)_t and then again with *pratidhrishe*.